

# KDHE Improves Public Health Preparedness by Participating in Incident Command Training

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KDHE and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) took strides to enhance our state's public health emergency preparedness levels by participating in a combined Incident Command System (ICS) training on July 13-14. The training, ICS-300, is targeted to senior and middle managers of emergency events that require multi-agency coordination. KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby, Deputy Secretary Doug Farmer, and Adjutant General Tod Bunting were joined by other senior staff from the two agencies participating in the training.

The training covers such topics as Unified Command, Incident Resource Management, and the Incident Planning Process and is to be delivered to a multi-disciplinary audience to facilitate improved levels of interagency cooperation and coordination. To successfully complete the training students must participate in class discussions, small group exercises, and complete the comprehensive written examination at the end of the course.

Instructors for the course were: Michael McNulty, Operations Specialist in the KDHE Center for Public Health Preparedness; Bill Brubaker, Regional Homeland Security Coordinator, KDEM; and Lt. John Marmon, Kansas Highway Patrol.

"This training provided us with an excellent opportunity to discuss issues KDHE and KDEM would face during a crisis such as pandemic flu or a terrorist attack, and how we would best coordinate those efforts using the Incident Command System," said KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby. "Ensuring we are all well versed in using this system will enable us to better coordinate with federal, state and local entities as we take every action necessary to protect Kansans during an emergency."

This course, as well as other ICS courses, is required for state compliance with the National Incident Management System or NIMS. NIMS compliance is a requirement for a variety of federal grants, including all preparedness grants from the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health & Human Services. Additionally, NIMS has been adopted by Governor Kathleen Sebelius and serves as the framework for responding to emergencies in Kansas.